

Application No. 10/866,045
Response to Office Action mailed December 10, 2004

Patent
Attorney Docket No. 86267-38

III. REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Claim of Right to Priority

A "Claim of Right to Priority" and a "Substitute Declaration and Power of Attorney" to claim the benefit of an earlier filed application are being filed concurrently herewith.

Accordingly, the specification has been amended in order to include a specific reference to the earlier filed application on which the present application now claims priority.

It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added to the application under the present amendment.

2. Election of claims

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner requires restriction to one of the following groups of claims under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-12
- II. Claims 13 and 14

In response to the Examiner's requisition under 35 U.S.C. 121, the Applicants elect group I with traverse, claims 1-12 being readable thereon, for prosecution on the merits.

Accordingly, claims 13 and 14 have been withdrawn from the present application. The Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue any or all of the non-elected claims in one or more divisional applications that may be filed prior to the issuance to patent of the present application.

Application No. 10/688,045
Response to Office Action mailed December 10, 2004

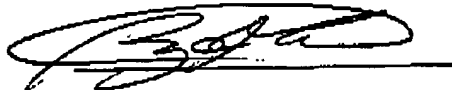
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IV. CONCLUSION

The Applicants are of the view that claims 1-12 are in allowable form. Early allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

If the claims of the application are not considered to be in full condition for allowance, for any reason, the Applicants respectfully request the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner in drafting one or more acceptable claims pursuant to MPEP 707.07(j) or in making constructive suggestions pursuant to MPEP 706.03 so that the application can be placed in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings.

Respectfully submitted,



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